



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2023

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Harvest activities progressed amid mostly warm and dry conditions last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) data, isolated precipitation of up to an inch was mostly confined to northern and western counties in the State last week. Southwestern counties received upwards of an inch of moisture at higher elevations. Northern Weld and Sedgwick Counties received an inch of moisture in areas. Counties in the central and southern portion of the State received over half an inch select areas. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on September 21, drought conditions remained prevalent in western and southwestern counties. Just over 13 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry conditions, and 13 percent of the State was rated in moderate drought. Three percent of the State was rated in severe drought, equal to last week. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, cooler than average temperatures were widespread across western counties last week, with some areas experiencing daytime high temperatures 4 degrees cooler than normal. Eastern counties experienced maximum temperatures more than 8 degrees above average. Winter wheat seeding continued across the State last week and crops were maturing. Potato harvest in the San Luis Valley started slowly due to wet weather but made good progress later in the week. The third cutting of alfalfa also progressed. Livestock remained in good shape, and pastures were maturing as normal for the season.

The third cutting of alfalfa progressed amongst drier weather, with 80 percent harvested, behind last year and the 5-year average at 85 percent. Fourth cutting remained significantly behind normal, with 11 percent harvested, compared with a 5-year average of 30 percent. The corn crop continued to mature, with 82 percent of the crop dented, behind the 5-year average of 89 percent, and 29 percent of the crop in the mature stage, behind the 5-year average of 41 percent. Corn harvested for silage made good progress last week, with 73 percent of the crop harvested. Sugarbeet harvest also began in northeastern counties, with 7 percent of the crop harvested. Potato harvest increased its pace in the San Luis Valley last week, with 37 percent of the acreage harvested. Stored feed supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 88 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 61 percent average, and 38 percent light. Sheep death loss was 3 percent heavy, 88 percent average, and 9 percent light.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	80	70	85	85
4 th cutting harvested	11	9	29	30
Corn				
Dented	82	71	82	89
Mature	29	14	37	41
Harvested for silage	73	34	79	78
Dry edible beans				
Cut	67	47	67	67
Harvested	26	10	27	30
Onions				
Harvested	64	50	66	67
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	37	11	29	36
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	80	70	68	67
Proso millet				
Harvested	61	36	57	NA
Sorghum				
Turning color	91	81	98	94
Mature	46	25	40	40
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	7	NA	17	18
Winter wheat				
Planted	52	29	46	51
Emerged	22	2	18	21

NA – not available

(-) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.6	6.0	5.3	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	11	15	25	20
Short	35	33	42	42
Adequate	52	50	32	37
Surplus	2	2	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	5	8	41	26
Short	26	21	33	35
Adequate	67	69	26	38
Surplus	2	2	--	1

NA – not available

(-) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	5	4	4	6
Poor	10	10	6	11
Fair.....	23	25	34	23
Good	54	51	49	52
Excellent.....	8	10	7	8
Corn				
Very poor.....	5	5	22	10
Poor	12	15	23	16
Fair.....	24	26	30	24
Good	48	47	22	43
Excellent.....	11	7	3	7
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	5	7	6	NA
Poor	20	16	10	NA
Fair.....	46	36	19	NA
Good	28	34	34	NA
Excellent.....	1	7	31	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	7	10	14	16
Poor	8	10	35	25
Fair.....	19	17	25	25
Good	56	58	22	29
Excellent.....	10	5	4	5
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	1	--	5	3
Poor	4	6	10	9
Fair.....	19	18	25	25
Good	55	52	45	46
Excellent.....	21	24	15	17
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	--	1	6	8
Poor	3	2	10	11
Fair.....	14	14	36	29
Good	77	75	48	45
Excellent.....	6	8	--	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	1	--	5	5
Fair.....	18	25	55	32
Good	63	57	40	52
Excellent.....	18	18	--	10
Sunflower				
Very poor.....	--	1	6	3
Poor	4	4	10	9
Fair.....	13	14	45	36
Good	80	78	34	45
Excellent.....	3	3	5	7
Livestock				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	2
Poor	2	4	3	5
Fair.....	8	9	18	22
Good	82	83	42	56
Excellent.....	7	3	36	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero